

BOOK REVIEWS

ZERO FOOTPRINT **The True Story of a Private Military** **Contractor's Covert Assignments in** **Syria, Libya, and the World's** **Most Dangerous Places**

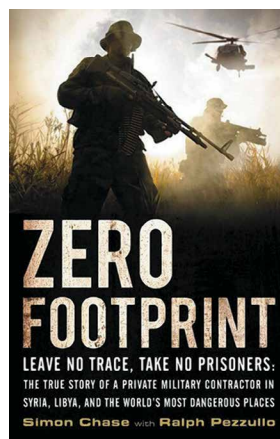
Simon Chase and Ralph Pezzullo,
Mulholland Books, New York, 2016, 320 pages

Zero Footprint examines the evolution of the secretive private security business into a temporary, scalable, deniable private military force, as told by an insider. The name of the book alludes to the level of support and “signature” these operatives are required to maintain while conducting their assignments. The value of the book is its description of the lives that private military contractors (PMCs) lead, the motives for using them, and the effectiveness and value of their service. A real page-turner, the writing is precise, the detail vivid, and the consequences profound.

Zero Footprint is an autobiographical account of a former special boat service member turned PMC, published under the pen name of Simon Chase. It is his tale that is told, with the assistance of coauthor Ralph Pezzullo, an accomplished screenwriter and journalist. The book recounts Chase’s training with the elite special boat services and his subsequent entry into the world of private security in 1999, as well as the massive expansion of the military contractor enterprise through the turn of the century.

Unlike many books about the “war on terror,” the characters described are often seen less as heroes, and more as mercenaries. In the opening chapters, one discovers the misspent youth of the author, and the series of decisions and circumstances that eventually led him to the U.S. ambassadorial compound in Benghazi. In the telling, the reader begins to understand the sense of purpose and duty that drives many of these men. Brought together on dangerous missions without overt

government support, and no recognition, PMCs can only rely on their teammates to watch their backs. To illuminate this, a chapter describes how two principals vying for control of the country wanted their security detachments to fight each other. However, since the community of operators was so tightly knit, the plan became known and the contractors refused to fight. The



author relates a tale of what can happen to special operators that end their service to their country early due to unforeseen circumstances and yet wish to continue the high-risk vocation in which they excel.

The book is much more than a first-person account of dangerous missions taking place in far-flung locations; it provides insight of the

inner workings and decision-making processes that governments use when employing private military contractors. The work they do at the behest of wealthy people, multinational corporations, and governments requires confidentiality. If publicly revealed, the details of these missions would embarrass or compromise the actions of the principals. As related in the book, an employer who is often an arm of the U.S. government requires a covert asset that cannot be traced back to the employer for a time-sensitive or short-term mission. It becomes clear when reading the book why private military contractors fill that role. Having the same skill sets as our elite operators, they become the go-to-guys when governments who have shrunk their military budgets need available forces. When the threat abates, PMCs can be “let go” with no further financial commitment or political ties, unlike government-run military forces.

The effectiveness of these shadow organizations can be hard to measure. However, the deeds and activities that PMCs conducted in the heady days after 9/11

cannot be in doubt. From meager beginnings as personnel security detachments, PMCs augmented the conventional forces providing security in war zones. Through PMC actions, U.S. and coalition soldiers are free to pursue the enemy instead of being tied up guarding diplomats, international aid operations, or critical infrastructure. PMCs conduct a wide range of missions from personal security detachments to covert reconnaissance, snatch and grabs, and the dark side of the business such as forced relocation of indigenous peoples, all of which are described in an entertaining way. The wide variety of tasks they are called to perform, and the emotional context that peppers the narrative, will leave you intrigued.

Eric McGraw, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

THE NEW NUCLEAR DISORDER

Challenges to Deterrence and Strategy

Stephen J. Cimbala, Ashgate Publishing Company,
New York, 2015, 254 pages

The *New Nuclear Disorder: Challenges to Deterrence and Strategy* is well written and easy to read, even if you are not familiar with the jargon or esoteric terms of art in the fields Stephen J. Cimbala covers. The book is a compendium of different ways the nuclear weapons policy problem is changing during the beginning of the twenty-first century. Cimbala examines a specific policy issue with each chapter. Many of the issues overlap to some degree between chapters, providing some continuity, but the issues are largely covered independently by chapter.

Although I cannot represent all the chapters in a short book review, I will touch on some of the more interesting ideas Cimbala brings to light. He does a nice job recounting the essential elements needed during a crisis for two opposing sides (the simplest case) to limit escalation and resolve their differences. Cimbala then points out that, essentially, all the elements he lists for a positive crisis resolution are targets for cyber war. In an actual crisis, the use of information war techniques could make information so untrustworthy that opponents would not reasonably understand one another's positions and therefore could not resolve the crisis without escalation or possibly a nuclear exchange.

The book is not based entirely in theoretical scenarios. A significant portion is devoted to historical events that highlight the ease with which a nuclear crisis could develop. Cimbala uses events like the Able Archer "War Scare" in 1983, a Norwegian scientific rocket launch over Russia in 1995, and Vladimir Putin's operations in Ukraine in 2014 to show how fragile global peace may be.

Cimbala covers other major areas of concern for those who must solve contemporary nuclear policy problems. These include how geography affects deterrence, the potential for proliferation of nuclear weapons in Asia, how to end an ongoing nuclear conflict, the likelihood of small regional nuclear wars, culturally based misunderstandings, missile defense technology issues, and the effects of proliferation (potentially positive or negative effects).

The underlying theme is that the way deterrence worked during the Cold War is no longer a valid model for contemporary policy, and new solutions must be developed. Cimbala lays out many thought-provoking problems but does not offer solutions.

The sole criticism I have for this book is the lack of clear explanation for the model being used to predict the results of a nuclear exchange. It is important to understand the assumptions used to determine the survivability of nuclear weapons in the various scenarios he proposes. The reader is left to accept Cimbala's estimates without further explanation. It is a departure from an otherwise highly authoritative and well-documented work.

In summary, this is a very provocative and interesting book. If you have an interest in twenty-first century changes that affect nuclear weapons policy, this book will be very interesting for you, and it will illuminate challenges that are very difficult and are yet to be solved by policy makers worldwide.

**Harold A. Laurence, PhD,
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas**

THE U.S. NAVAL INSTITUTE ON NAVAL COMMAND

Edited by Thomas J. Cutler, Naval Institute Press,
Annapolis, Maryland, 2015, 194 pages

With the vast number of books on leadership, readers could wonder what subject a new book could cover that others have not

discussed. Thomas Cutler succeeds by looking at a related but entirely different topic—command. Cutler, the director of professional publishing at the U.S. Naval Institute, is the author of numerous articles and books, including several editions of the *Blue Jackets Manual*. In *The U.S. Naval Institute on Naval Command*, he tackles the complex but often neglected subject of command through an anthology of articles selected from different periods, each providing a unique perspective on command.

Naval Command is part of the U.S. Naval Institute's series of "wheel books." Wheel books are an old naval tradition of having books that provide "supplemental information, pragmatic advice, and cogent analysis on topics important to all naval professionals." Cutler's wheel book succeeds admirably in this regard by providing commanders an easy resource of perspectives on the challenges of command. The articles selected in *Naval Command* are from the Naval Institute's vast archives and provide ideas, hard-learned advice, and practical suggestions for any individual whether serving as a commander or as a member of a staff.

Defining leadership as "leading individuals" and command as "leading leaders," the stories and articles contained in *Naval Command* focus on the particular burdens and responsibilities of command at sea. Although Navy culture may be different, the lessons and advice provided are universal in their applicability, and readers from any service will immediately recognize the utility to their own situations.

The articles span many decades and offer insights that will be of interest to a wide audience. Whether shedding light on the balance between authority and responsibility, the different challenges facing wartime and peacetime commanders, or reflecting on the command decisions made during the pivotal battles of the Pacific war, each article's author provides a wealth of advice and lessons learned to military personnel at any level. These lessons are timeless. For example, in Cdr. Robert E. Mumford's article "Get Off My Back, Sir," the author addresses the perceived encroachment of micromanagement in the Navy. Although written in 1977, his concerns and suggestions will resonate and be valuable to commanders today.

The author wanted this book to be useful, and he succeeds in this goal. Although each contributor has a unique writing style, the articles in the book are very readable. Since each chapter is a separate article, readers

will find they can read and reflect on the advice in a short time each day. I highly recommend the book to all leaders, especially those going into command, for its thought-provoking lessons and practical advice.

Robert J. Rielly, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

STORMING THE CITY

U.S. Military Performance in Urban Warfare from World War II to Vietnam

Alec Wahlman, University of North Texas Press,
Denton, Texas, 2015, 368 pages

The title of this worthwhile book, *Storming the City*, may be misunderstood to mean it is a catalog of twentieth-century U.S. urban warfare tactics, techniques, and procedures. Similar misunderstanding abounded regarding John Nagl's *Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife: Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam*. Despite the title, that book was not about counterinsurgency lessons learned so much as it was about characteristics of adaptive, learning organizations, using two counterinsurgency case studies as contrasting illustrations. So it is here that Alec Wahlman focuses on the two major reasons for U.S. success as seen in four urban warfare case studies. The first reason for success is what he calls *transferable competence*—aggressive tactical initiative to try new things, coupled with rapid proliferation of lessons learned and doctrine. The second is battlefield adaptation. One can argue these same two characteristics contributed to U.S. tactical military successes overall in these wars. However, the urban operational environment most effectively showcases both in action, given city fighting's unique and formidable difficulties.

Wahlman, a veteran analyst of fourteen years at the Institute for Defense Analyses, examines U.S. military ground force performance in taking Aachen (European Theater of Operations in October 1944), Manila (Pacific Theater of Operations in February 1945), Seoul (mobile phase of the Korean War, September 1950), and Hue (Tet Offensive in the Vietnam War, February 1968). Each battle earns its own chapter that begins with a short historical orientation. The analytical treatment then divides into six categories: (1) command, control, and communications; (2) intelligence and reconnaissance; (3) firepower and survivability; (4) mobility and counter

mobility; (5) logistics; and (6) dealing with the population. Wahlman's comparative matrix at the end of the book suggests that the first case—Aachen—showed the United States at its best across all six categories. There is a relatively declining performance trend in Asia, the worst performance exhibited in the fight for Hue City. The reasons for this are complicated, and the author does good service in disabusing the reader of simplistic notions that U.S. ground forces became less proficient in urban warfare. However, the small sample size of only four cases and mostly qualitative and anecdotal evidence are reasons enough not to infer too much from this matrix.

Not unexpectedly, the comparison ranks the United States consistently high in firepower and survivability as well as in mobility and countermobility capabilities. Also not surprising, the worst relative U.S. performance is in terms of intelligence and reconnaissance. Lastly, the author challenges two common urban conflict misperceptions: (1) an overall numerical 3-to-1 offensive ratio is mandatory, and (2) infantry is the most suitable branch of arms for city fighting.

While not predictive of future U.S. ground force performance, Wahlman's *Storming the City* suggests that intangible characteristics through which units discover, learn, and adapt will matter most, although technological advances in firepower, survivability, mobility, and logistics will certainly matter. If you can only have one urban warfare book in your professional library, make sure this is it.

**Col. Eric M. Walters, U.S. Marine Corps,
Retired, Fort Lee, Virginia**

TRANSFORMING MILITARY POWER SINCE THE COLD WAR

**Britain, France, and the United States,
1991-2012**

Theo Farrell, Sten Rynning, and Terry Terriff,
Cambridge University Press, New York,
2013, 303 pages

T*ransforming Military Power since the Cold War* is a comparative case study by three notable military historians (two European and one Canadian) who offer an illuminating understanding of the military transformation of Britain, France, and the United States beginning after the Cold War.

The authors relied on extensive archival research and numerous interviews and official document access. Anyone interested in how an army transforms, and how it responds to challenges in an environment of constrained resources, will benefit from this book.

With the Soviet Union's inevitable demise, the end of the Cold War, and the increase of connectivity through networked computing and precision-guided weapons, Western military forces concentrated their efforts to adapt to new and unknown risks and requirements. The central question the authors sought to answer was how the armies of Britain, France, and the United States would change to meet new strategic imperatives and take advantage of new technologies. Both the process and the overall outcomes of Army transformation were investigated in their research. By seeking to answer predetermined questions, the authors looked at ways to develop findings that would have a general relevance for how militaries innovate. The authors focused on investigating

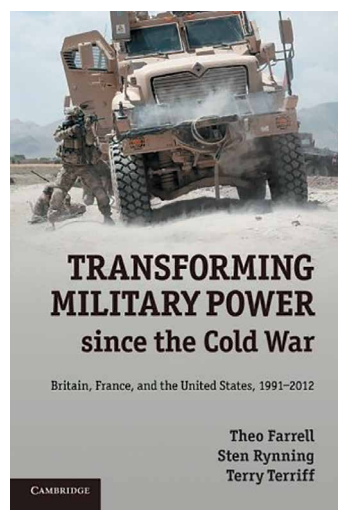
four key elements: interests of the organization, military culture with respect to new ideas, the role of civilian and military leaders, and the feedback generated from operational experience.

The book is divided into five chapters. The first begins with the imperatives and innovations involved with army transformation.

The next chapters, in

order, focus on the U. S. Army as it concentrated on the promise of information technology and modularization, the British and French armies as they developed networked expeditionary forces, and the development of effects-based operations. Each military chapter considers interests, ideas, individuals, and operational experience, along with how they were all interrelated with respect to army transformation. The final chapter evaluates the overall findings of the preceding case studies and discusses the many implications for the future of Western land power.

Transforming Military Power since the Cold War adds to current scholarly contributions related to military



innovation by taking into account the unique perspective of the British and French armies. The authors purposefully did not seek to test any type of theory but conveyed an army transformation story highlighting contingencies and complexities, along with politics and personality involvement. They wanted to capture the whole story, and had they added the theory premise, key elements of the story might have been deleted if those elements did not contribute to the consistency of the stated theory.

Joint aspects of innovation are not well balanced in the book although it is well written. The focus weighs more heavily toward the British and French militaries. Topics of interest that stand out include the relative scales of innovation (sustaining and disruptive), the impact of joint institutions on military innovation, and the role of civilian versus military leadership and how they shape military innovation. I highly recommended this work for military professionals and policy makers interested or involved in military innovation and those seeking to understand how armies respond to challenges.

**Lt. Col. Stephen Harvey, U.S. Army,
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas**

RECKLESS

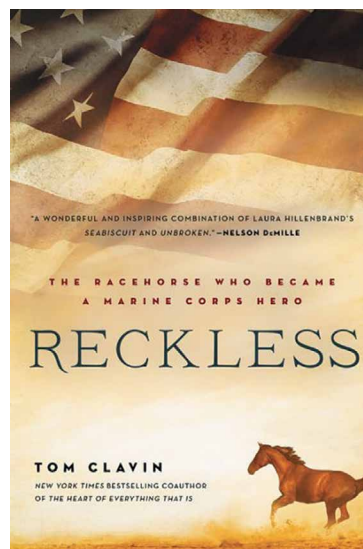
The Racehorse Who Became a Marine Corps Hero

Tom Clavin, *New American Library Caliber*,
New York, 2014, 308 pages

Warfare, for all its horrors, forges the strongest bond possible between soldiers. The oft-quoted battle speech from Shakespeare's *Henry V* perhaps puts it best, "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; For he today that sheds his blood with me, Shall be my brother." Since antiquity, soldiers also developed equally strong ties with the dogs, horses, birds, and even elephants that joined them on the battlefield. Tom Clavin's latest book, *Reckless*, relates the story of an unlikely marine—a former South Korean racehorse—and her pivotal role in a U.S. Marines platoon during the final months of the Korean War.

Born with the Hangul name Ah-Chim-Hai (Flame of the Morning), she began her career as an award-winning racehorse in the interwar years between the fall of the Axis powers and North Korea's surprise invasion of the

south in 1950. Like so many South Korean refugees, Ah-Chim-Hai fled with her owners to the Pusan perimeter, where they eked out a meager living using her as a work-



horse, before eventually returning to Seoul in 1952. The horse's return was short-lived as the exigencies of war forced her family to offer her for sale. At the same time, 2nd Lt. Eric Pedersen, a sharp-thinking marine recoilless rifle platoon leader, recognized the critical need for a dedicated pack animal to haul heavy ammunition loads up the steep

Korean mountainsides in support of infantry offensive operations. Through fate or chance, Pedersen bought An-Chim-Hai, renamed her Reckless, and drafted her into the Marine Corps.

After an abbreviated boot camp (for both horse and handlers), Reckless repeatedly proved her worth on the battlefield until the cease-fire in 1953. Reckless's strength, bravery, and character soon endeared her to the marines she soldiered alongside. During the Battle of Hill 120, for example, Reckless carried some nine thousand pounds of recoilless rifle ammunition about thirty-five miles while also hauling wounded marines to medical care despite being twice wounded herself. The marines loved her and insisted she return in glory to the United States at the end of conflict. By the time of her "retirement," Reckless earned a bevy of awards, including promotion to staff sergeant, two Purple Hearts, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, and two unit citations. Until her passing in 1968, Reckless was a key figure in the official ceremonies at her new home in Camp Pendleton, California. Today, Reckless's service is commemorated by a memorial statue at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia.

Reckless is much more than another story about the Korean War. The book provides three critical lessons for military leaders at all levels. First, it accurately captures and explains the unique bonds exclusively developed

among soldiers in combat. Second, Clavin painstakingly describes the duty to return home and care for our wartime animal companions upon the conclusion of their honorable service. This particular lesson was all but forgotten during the Vietnam conflict. If not for the combined efforts of soldiers and nonprofit groups, animals used in Iraq and Afghanistan might have been left behind. The final, and perhaps most important, lesson to be gleaned is the role critical thinking plays in solving complex problems. Pedersen found a successful, if seemingly unorthodox, means to improve his platoon's ability to accomplish the mission. Pedersen's chain of command, up to the commandant of the Marine Corps, not only avoided the pitfall of micromanagement but also gave their full support to his solution. Given the level of unnecessary oversight to the individual soldier level extant in today's military, this is a lesson worth remembering lest we be forced to relearn it.

**Lt. Col. Chris Heatherly, U.S. Army,
Pullman, Washington**

AMERICANS IN OCCUPIED BELGIUM, 1914-1918

Accounts of the War from Journalists, Tourists, Troops and Medical Staff

Ed Klekowski and Libby Klekowski,
McFarland and Company, Inc., Publishers,
Jefferson, North Carolina, 2014, 296 pages

This book surprised me. I had little expectation that a volume titled *Americans in Occupied Belgium, 1914-1918: Accounts of the War from Journalists, Tourists, Troops and Medical Staff* could hold the interest of a serious military professional or student of military history. I expected an eclectic travelogue at best, but the authors delivered a different result. Ed Klekowski is a retired professor of biology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and he writes with his wife, Libby Klekowski. They openly admit that the book grew out of their visits to a daughter and her husband who live in Louvain, Belgium, but they felt compelled to tell this story. They have produced a worthy historical account.

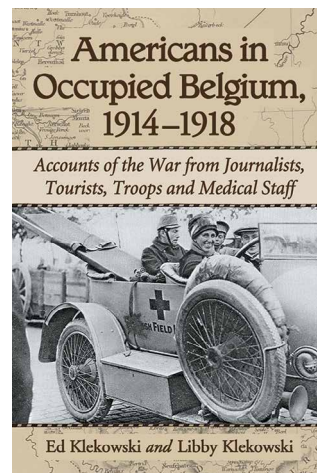
This book capably sets the experiences of Americans who lived or travelled in Belgium during the Great War in chronological context. Most historians of the western

front largely ignore Belgium, except for early German atrocities or the battles of Ypres, and they certainly do not set events in the full context from German invasion until war's end, illuminating the effect of combat on the non-combatants. The Klekowskis do that, and meanwhile they interweave some fascinating tales of personal American experience from a great variety of perspectives. The story of Herbert Hoover's Commission for Relief in Belgium is a principal part of this book. Americans also fought on both sides, Allied and German. Aid workers, ambulance drivers, curious businessmen, nurses, journalists, and adventurers all have a voice in this story.

Ed and Libby Klekowski employ their primary sources in a most adept way, and no pertinent source is wasted. The book is primarily based on the memoirs of those Americans who experienced World War I in Belgium, but it also makes great use of visual records, such as period postcards and photographs, as well as contemporary sources such as newspapers and journals. The Klekowskis have travelled extensively in the region, and their knowledge of place and setting adds much to the tale and is almost scientific in its thoroughness. The book merges the facts of the story with an amplifying visual record.

Americans in Occupied Belgium illuminates the experience of those Americans who were in Belgium when the Germans invaded. One of the protagonists is the head of the American Legation, Brand Whitlock, who remained in Belgium until just before the United States declared war on Germany in April 1917. He was a critical actor in mediating with the occupying Germans and in diplomatically ensuring the welfare of American citizens trapped in or transiting Belgium during the German occupation, sometimes at personal cost. Brand Whitlock was both a model diplomat and a selfless humanitarian.

The Klekowskis' motivation to write the book originated in their visit to the reconstructed library in Louvain, paid for after the war principally by Americans. The inexcusable burning of an entire library of books, including irreplaceable medieval manuscripts during the



sacking of Louvain, is one of the great human tragedies of the war, and it certainly contributed to Allied propaganda depicting the Germans as beasts and butchers. This volume amply illustrates the pathos of the Louvain and Dinant sacking. Anyone with any doubt as to the atrocities committed by the Germans against the Belgians should read this book for careful illustration, documentation, and increased understanding.

Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski, PhD, U.S. Army, Retired, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

THE END OF TSARIST RUSSIA

The March to World War I and Revolution

Dominic Lieven, Viking, New York, 2015, 428 pages

There are the historical works that provide new perspectives on iconic events in world history. *The End of Tsarist Russia* by Dominic Lieven is one of those works. His book details the strategic imperatives, decisions, and personalities that led tsarist Russia to war and its ultimate demise. He does not settle for a dramatic retelling of the heady days of Revolution in Petrograd, or the final years of the First World War. In fact, those events are covered in the shortest and last chapter of the book. Instead, Lieven studies the geopolitical situation in the years preceding the Armageddon that swept through Europe and the world a little over a hundred years ago. In so doing, he illuminates dangerous parallels with today.

The first myth that Lieven debunks is that of tsarist Russia as an exceptional or irrational actor on the world stage before World War I. On the contrary, Lieven argues that the strategic calculus of Russia resembled that of the other empires of the time. Russia's desires to control the straits of Dardanelle were similar to British designs on the Suez Canal or U.S. control over the Panama Canal. Furthermore, he underlines the imperial dilemma faced by all great powers in the early twentieth century: that a state's greatness depended on its size. However, the greater a state's size, the more vulnerable it was to political disunity. This threatened all empires in an age of rising ethnic nationalism.

Lieven then explains the particular security dynamics of tsarist Russia. These included its defeat by Japan in Manchuria, Pan-Slavic aspirations, a rising Germany, and growing Polish and Ukrainian nationalism. Interestingly,

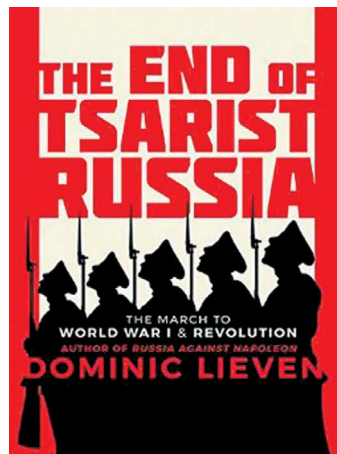
and probably as a result of his access to Russian archives, he spends a large amount of the book describing the various personalities of Russian leaders and bureaucrats who shaped tsarist policy in the years before the war. As a result, the reader is struck by the realization of how important individuals are to the course of history.

One of the book's most ambitious claims is that "as much as anything, World War I turned on the fate of Ukraine." While clearly meant to galvanize the reader and draw parallels with the current security situation in Europe, the book does make a coherent argument on the

primacy of the East in World War I. This is an important point for those knowledgeable about the bloody trench warfare of the western front.

This is an authoritative work, with new perspectives, on Russian government policy in the years before World War I. It is well written and particularly relevant in the increasingly fraught geopolitical situation we face today. Those security specialists who seek a greater understanding of historical Russian geostrategic imperatives will benefit from reading this book. However, its in-depth analysis of individual personalities might overwhelm more general readers. Military officers will not find any tactical or operational insights but will benefit from understanding the political context from which war is made.

Maj. Roland Minez, U.S. Army Reserve, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas



GALLIPOLI

The Dardanelles Disaster in Soldiers' Words and Photographs

Richard Van Emden and Stephen Chambers, Bloomsbury USA, New York, 2015, 344 pages

This is a collaborative effort between Richard Van Emden, a well-published British author, historian, and filmmaker whose focus has been the

Great War, and Stephen Chambers, a military historian and author whose focus has been the Gallipoli Campaign. In *Gallipoli*, they use their tremendous knowledge and expertise to bring to light the story of the Gallipoli Campaign as seen through the eyes of the participants of both sides. Source material for this well-researched book includes published and unpublished memoirs, diaries, magazines, museum materials, other Gallipoli books, and a large amount of archived material.

Well written and logical, *Gallipoli* is relatively free of difficult military language and detail, and it does not require a detailed understanding of the campaign or World War I to

understand the events relayed by the authors. This book is for World War I enthusiasts, novice and scholar alike, as well as military professionals interested in the impacts of strategic and operational decisions on the men and women who will execute them.

The book's structure is an intricate weave of first-hand accounts connected by the author's narratives in a chronological event sequence. Along with the first-hand accounts, generally from company-grade officers and enlisted soldiers, is a tremendous number of photographs that lend great support to the reader's understanding of the participants. If a picture paints a thousand words, as used in *Gallipoli* they provide the reader the opportunity to view the great panorama on which this campaign unfolds.

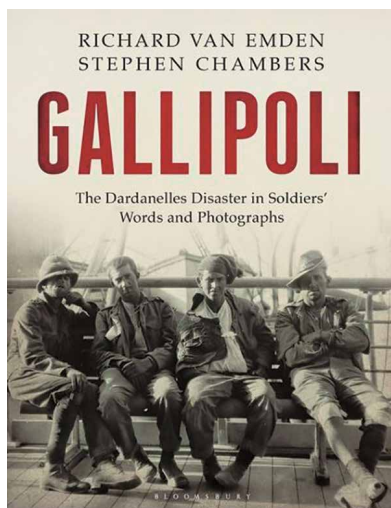
While the introduction and first chapter, "Forcing the Straits," provide an effective strategic and operational setting, the focus of this book is tactical. The title, *Gallipoli: The Dardanelles Disaster in Soldiers' Words and Photographs*, identifies the focus as man at war. There are many published strategic and operational analyses of this campaign. *Gallipoli* puts a human face on the execution of the strategic and operational decisions.

The book's organization tries to provide balance between the Turkish and the Allied views, but I felt, if it

were available, more Turkish input would be needed for telling the whole story. The difficulties of the soldier in war are not limited to one side. It is one thing to study the campaign through plans, orders, and grand sweeping movements on the battlefield. It is quite another to attempt to see that same campaign through the eyes of the participants. From the Turkish view, the campaign ended with their honor intact but at a cost of nearly three times as many deaths as their adversaries.

If you are interested in examining how the tactical execution of strategic guidance could go terribly wrong, then the Gallipoli Campaign is one for your research.

Lt. Col. Terrance M. Portman, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas



FORGOTTEN HEROES OF WORLD WAR II

Personal Accounts of Ordinary Soldiers— Land, Sea, and Air

Thomas E. Simmons, Taylor Trade,
New York, 2014, 326 pages

Forgotten Heroes of World War II provides the reader with fourteen graphic, personal, emotional, and compelling accounts of the ordinary American soldier, sailor, airman, and marine as each did his job surviving the unimaginable horrors of World War II. Highlighting significant battles in every theater of the war, the book collectively tells the story of the ordinary American man who volunteered to fight for his country and who was thrust into an environment where he witnessed the devastation of war, up close and personal. As soldiers are reluctant to talk about their service in war, the author does an excellent job gaining the confidence of these everyday military heroes as shown with his skillful narration of their stories. In each personal account, the reader is transformed to that air, land, or sea battlefield. Each experience is graphically described, and readers can almost feel as if they were there.

The book is well written, well organized, and interesting to read. It is recommended for undergraduate or graduate studies in leadership, ethics, and history. Although not exclusively for military readers, it provides many examples of ethical dilemmas in war appropriate for military professional development, at any level. Be

forewarned that it contains graphic detail of the horrors of war, death of close friends, stories of survival at all costs, and extraordinary courage. The book highlights the extraordinary brotherhood of the military at war, where service members are literally fighting for their own survival and that of their brothers on their left and right.

The volume of casualties associated with every battle highlighted in the book is staggering. The number of casualties suffered by the 94th Bomb Group, who took part in the bombing campaign against Germany, was shocking. In all, 163 aircraft and 1,453 airmen were missing, wounded, or killed. During eighty-one days of fighting, Okinawa was secured, but at a cost of 65,000 wounded, dead, or missing; 26 ships sunk and 368 damaged; and 768 aircraft lost. After the infamous Battle of the Bulge, American losses totaled 8,607 dead, 47,139 wounded, and 21,144 missing or captured. Finally, the U.S. Marine 4th Infantry Division suffered 9,098 men dead or wounded in their victory over the Japanese on the island of Iwo Jima. All told, the total amounted to one-half the division's strength.

Simmons does not pull any punches as he dutifully transcribes the vivid memories of these rank-and-file heroes. He graphically describes the intensity, gore, and lethality of war. There is a historical context with every vignette. This allows readers to understand the significance of the battle in relation to the overall success and eventual termination of the war. The human dimension of leadership, personal survival, fear of the unknown, and selfless service is humbling. No doubt, the lingering effects on the individuals are overwhelming.

**Col. Michael R. Martinez, U.S. Army, Retired,
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas**

**WENDELL FERTIG AND
HIS GUERRILLA FORCES IN
THE PHILIPPINES**
**Fighting the Japanese Occupation,
1942-1945**

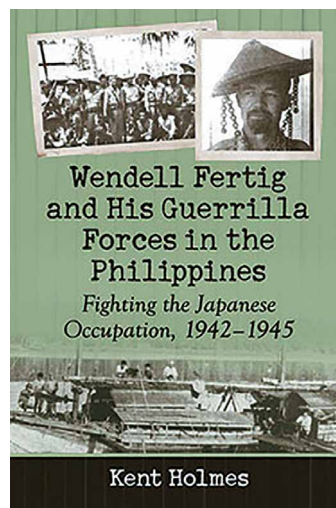
Kent Holmes, McFarland,
Jefferson, North Carolina, 2015, 244 pages

Kent Holmes, retired Central Intelligence Agency officer and senior intelligence service member, gives an extensively researched

account of an American commander's activities and problems of command in *Wendell Fertig and His Guerrilla Forces in the Philippines: Fighting the Japanese Occupation, 1942-1945*. Holmes provides a sequential analysis of Fertig's background, the operational environment, guerilla development, the enemy situation, the guerilla situation, logistics, intelligence, and Fertig's leadership and responsibilities. He does so to evaluate Fertig's leadership, ultimately asserting that Fertig's guerillas were the largest and best-organized guerilla group, provided the best intelligence coverage, and were one of two groups whose major operational capabilities contributed to the liberation of the Philippines. Holmes points out that Fertig was later one of the architects of U.S. Army Special Forces. In addition to the special operations commu-

nity, this book should appeal to intelligence professionals, Pacific theater aficionados, and anyone who seeks a better understanding of leadership in the complex environments of irregular, hybrid, or guerrilla warfare.

The book's examination spans the gamut from the tactical to the strategic aspects of guerrilla warfare. It



contains observations on network dynamics and the challenges of mediating among a complex system of sometimes-rival groups. Interwoven in early chapters are Fertig's principles of guerrilla warfare, which Holmes then lists at the book's end. While the book provides examples of the integration of tactics and operational-level psychological operations, the descriptions of tactical engagements are not extensively detailed. However, there are ample illustrations of unconventional logistics and communications and of the priority of intelligence over direct action in support of conventional operations. Regarding the latter, Holmes expertly conveys the strategic implications of guerrilla activities concerning the naval battles and the Allied counterattack to retake the Philippines. He notes the contribution that Fertig's guerilla intelligence on Mindanao provided to the first battle of the

Philippine Sea (a.k.a. the “Marianas Turkey Shoot”) and the Battle of Leyte Gulf. He likewise considers the missed opportunities that arose because U.S. planners at General Headquarters Southwest Pacific Area neglected to include the guerilla movement in Allied intelligence and offensive plans. Although the book addresses both the tactical and strategic levels, it provides the greatest insight at the operational level of guerrilla warfare.

Holmes’ thorough research is a valuable resource for special operations planning, for case studies on special operations—conventional forces interdependence, or as part of a larger study of the differences in the evolution of guerrilla movements on the various islands of the Philippines in World War II. The casual reader might find the density of detail cumbersome at times, but researchers will appreciate the meticulous precision, including specific dates, troop numbers, and even packing lists. Despite an academic treatment that seems clinical at times, the book contains indispensable gems of wisdom that practitioners must consider when planning for unconventional or guerrilla warfare contingencies.

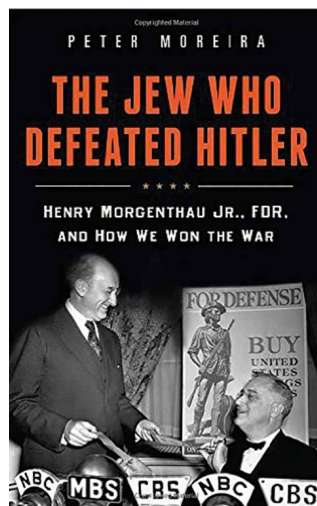
Maj. Thomas R. Nypaver,
Texas Army National Guard,
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

THE JEW WHO DEFEATED HITLER **Henry Morgenthau Jr., FDR, and** **How We Won the War**

Peter Moreira, Prometheus Books, Amherst,
New York, 2014, 296 pages

In *The Jew Who Defeated Hitler: Henry Morgenthau Jr., FDR, and How We Won the War*, Peter Moreira tells of the contributions Henry Morgenthau Jr. and the United States Treasury Department made toward winning the Second World War. The title of the book is a bit exaggerated because no single person defeated Hitler, but what cannot be denied is the crucial role Morgenthau played in the Allies’ winning the war. The defeat of the Axis Powers in World War II was the most expensive human undertaking ever attempted, and Morgenthau, while largely behind the scenes, was the individual who helped finance the war and establish many of the initiatives that helped raise so much money for both the United States and the other allied countries.

Moreira uses a wide selection of primary and secondary sources consisting of previously published books, diary entries, letters, international and domestic financial reports, and Morgenthau’s personal papers while secretary of the treasury. Highlights include his



descriptions about the multiple war-bond campaigns held in the United States, Morgenthau’s involvement in the lend-lease program, the War Refugee Board, and the Bretton Woods Conference. Moreira brings to life Henry Morgenthau Jr. and the important representatives within the Treasury Department in detail and vividly accounts for their efforts in financing

World War II. Moreira is also quick to point out some of Morgenthau’s flaws, particularly his insecurities and routine jealousy of other important leaders within Franklin D. Roosevelt’s cabinet.

The friendship between Morgenthau and Roosevelt is written superbly and makes you appreciate the behind-the-scenes impact that Morgenthau had within American policy and diplomacy during the twelve years he was secretary of the treasury. He showed great leadership and organizational skills and artfully picked the right talent to work in the Treasury Department. Due to the amount of respect and confidence Roosevelt had in Morgenthau, he was often assigned tasks not within his duty description or area of influence, which brought Morgenthau undue stress and criticism among some of his peer competitors wanting the same influence on the president.

The Jew Who Defeated Hitler is tailored toward any reader interested in the economic requirements of defeating the Axis powers in World War II, and it focuses primarily on the strategic level of warfare. This book is recommended to any member of the security community who wants to understand how global finances, economic industries, or coalition partners can greatly hinder or improve successful military operations. Some of the fundamental lessons learned within this book are the

importance of peer-to-peer teamwork, leadership, and organization within large bureaucracies.

**Maj. Matthew Prescott, U.S. Army,
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas**

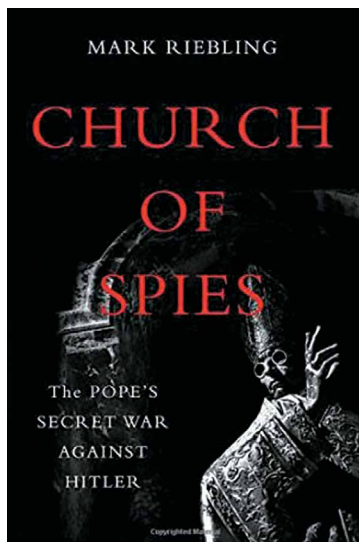
CHURCH OF SPIES

The Pope's Secret War Against Hitler

Mark Riebling, Basic Books, New York,
2015, 384 pages

Mark Riebling has written an extraordinary work of literature in *Church of Spies: The Pope's Secret War Against Hitler*. In this, his second major publication, Riebling does a fantastic job of delivering his thesis that contrary to public opinion, Pope Pius XII was actively engaged in establishing a covert network to work for peace during World War II. An accomplished academic, Riebling worked as a book editor before serving as the editorial director of the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research for ten years. Post-9/11, he cofounded and became the director of the Center for Policing Terrorism, which gave him experience in successfully profiling secret groups. Widely considered an expert in intelligence and espionage, his experience allows him to navigate the networks he writes about in *Church of Spies*. Riebling's writing style will capture you quickly. Easy to read, *Church of Spies* primarily follows the actions of Josef Müller, a German Catholic patriot, who acted as the primary liaison between the German regular army intelligence chief and the Vatican.

This book primarily covers the period starting six months before Germany's invasion of Poland and continuing through the end of the war. *Church of Spies* also dives into the history of Bishop Eugenio Pacelli, including how his upbringing as a priest and bishop influenced



his actions once he became Pope Pius XII. My one complaint about this book is how Riebling alternates between names—Pacelli and Pius—during the early chapters. I came to the understanding that he did this to help the reader identify the time he was referencing in the pope's life. Pope Pius XII, as politically motivated as he was spiritually, used his experience while leading the Catholic Church during this tragic time to build networks and influence people to plan a regime change in Germany, through assassination if necessary. Müller carried messages between the regular German army and the Vatican. Acting as an agent for the intelligence chief Adm. Wilhelm Canaris, Müller took extreme risks by flying sport planes between Germany and the Vatican.

I highly recommend this book to people who are interested in World War II history or Catholic Church history. It certainly adds to the understanding of Pope Pius XII's actions and leadership of the Catholic Church during this horrific and tragic period in our world's history. Understanding the political sensitivities and the nature of the Nazi Party allowed Pope Pius XII to act and lead in a manner that prevented Adolf Hitler from using the pope's words and deeds as a reason to begin executing Catholics.

**Lt. Col. Joe Schotzko, U.S. Army,
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas**

EISENHOWER'S ARMIES

The American-British Alliance During World War II

Niall Barr, Pegasus Books, New York,
2015, 544 pages

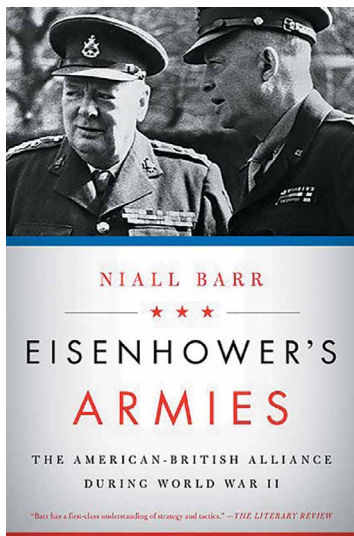
More than seventy years have passed since the alliance of American and British powers saw the eventual downfall of the Axis powers in World War II. In *Eisenhower's Armies*, author Niall Barr traces the Anglo-American relationship that eventually led to the success of the Allied forces in the Second World War. Drawing from a vast array of published and unpublished primary and secondary sources from national archives, museums, letters, lectures, and private collections, Barr is able to provide a unique perspective not only into the plans, operations, and battles but also into the politics

and personalities that shaped the British-American military collaboration of the time.

Barr, a widely published author, history professor, and senior lecturer at King's College London, presents both sides of the alliance in a well-researched, balanced manner. Having written numerous books on the topic of Anglican war, Barr's latest effort, *Eisenhower's Armies*, takes a more detailed look into not only the strategy and tactics of the two nations during World War II, but the political, social, and historical components that led to their eventual success as an alliance.

Eisenhower's Armies takes the reader chronologically through the American-British military relationship from its inception during the formative years of America as a fledgling nation through one of the most destructive wars in history, full circle back to an uneasy cooperation almost as soon as the battles have past. By highlighting military conflict and cooperation between the two during the early French expansion on the North American continent, the Revolutionary War, and World War I, Barr sets the stage for a greater understanding of the tensions, suspicions, and early difficulties of this on-again, off-again cooperation. Dire circumstances and mutual need between the two countries, however, eventually culminated in the most successful military cooperation of all time.

Barr's insightful account of how the tensions, tactical collaborations, and even advances in technology affected the war gives the reader a comprehensive view of the British-American alliance in the latter part of World War II. He provides a strategic level understanding of the how the situation evolved to bring about America's involvement in the war; how planning and operations were organized, and even how those relationships from across the Atlantic manifested between the soldiers on the battlefield. By outlining various battles, decisions, and tactics agreed upon (and sometimes disagreed upon) by both sides, *Eisenhower's Armies* presents a



detailed view of the war and its key players in the context of international politics and policy.

Barr's in-depth understanding of the history, cultures, economics, and military conflict of the time, coupled with his descriptive, engaging writing style, makes the book accessible to a wide audience. Though *Eisenhower's Armies* seldom mentions other allies involved, and Barr narrowly focuses on ground forces rather than providing a comprehensive look at the entire alliance, the account reads as genuine, and the style is engaging throughout. He successfully demonstrates the sometimes-overlooked truth that decisions made and implications realized as a result of the tentative partnership between England and America were often forged in the sitting room rather than the war room.

Barr derives military perceptions from multiple sources concerning the personalities of the military and political leaders of the time. The result is an engaging narrative that gives readers a unique perspective on the inner workings of war. His strategic expertise shines through, and the book presents a social, operational, and even tactical analysis of a successful, albeit controversial, time of cooperation in British-American history.

**Maj. Carla Gleason, U.S. Air Force,
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas**

BUDDIES

Heartwarming Photos of GIs and Their Dogs in World War II

L. Douglas Keeney, Zenith Press, New York,
2015, 176 pages

All service members at any rank want the same thing: unconditional loyalty and emotional support. The book *Buddies: Heartwarming Photos of GIs and Their Dogs in World War II* by L. Douglas Keeney provides the reader with a view of military members and their loyal animal companions in everyday life during World War II.

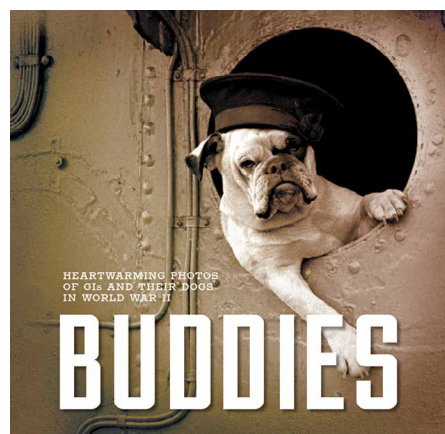
Keeney has written more than a dozen books on American history. *Buddies*, which is an addition to the 2001 publication, *Buddies: Men, Dogs and World War II*, allows the reader to feel the emotion of service members and their dogs. Men who have seen the horror of war can relax and gain comfort from their dogs. Some

of the photos place dogs in whimsical poses, while others show dogs relaxing with the GIs, and still others show dogs recovering from battle wounds.

If a reader is looking for a World War II book on campaigns and national strategy, this is not it. If the reader is looking for a book on military working dogs, or dogs used for policing or explosive detection, this is not it. If the reader is looking for information on mascot pets or purebred dogs that live a pampered life, this is not it. If the reader is looking for a book about mutts and strays that find a GI to take care of them and provide comfort, this is definitely the book.

The book has seven chapters, with five dedicated to the buddies of the Coast Guard, Army, Army Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. The two remaining chapters are dedicated to “War’s End” and “Humor in the Face

of War.” Every photo in the book is an official military photo that was researched at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Each photo has a caption, which the author



edited to eliminate personal information and needlessly offensive language from the 1940s that is no longer used today. Journalists who were drafted or volunteered for the service wrote many of the captions. The intent of the photos was to keep the public feeling good about the war when times were hard and the news from the front was not always good. The photos let the American public see our soldiers and sailors making the best of some very difficult situations.

Some of these dogs have great combat stories, such as a dog named Cherbourg, who was at Normandy on 6 June 1944 when a tank landing ship landed. He decided it was a good time to get off the beach and run onto the ship. In addition, there is Skippy, a member of a B-17 crew serving in Northwest African theater with bombing runs over Tunisia and Sicily.

This book is not relevant to the study of World War II history or to the current security concerns of

the nation. However, it is a very good book for seeing World War II from a different perspective of soldiers and their adopted pets.

Boyd Plessl, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

COURAGE, COMPASSION, MARINE

The Unique Story of Jimmie Dyess

Perry Smith, iUniverse, Bloomington, Indiana,
2015, 220 pages

From start to finish, readers sense the pride and passion of the book’s author, Maj. Gen. Perry W. Smith, U.S. Air Force, retired, who took ten years to research and write *Courage, Compassion, Marine: The Unique Story of Jimmie Dyess*. The story resonates with the author because Smith is married to Jimmie Dyess’s daughter and only child. Together over the years, the Smiths have represented this American hero’s extraordinary achievements at multiple and various events around the globe.

The book moves effectively in a chronology beginning with Jimmie Dyess’s prewar years, progressing to the Carnegie Medal, the evolution of U.S. Marine Corps, the war in the Pacific, the 4th Marine Division and its role in *Operation Flintlock*, perspectives on the Medal of Honor and courage, and a litany of Dyess’s honors and events. However, the book needs a more effective ending as Smith spends too much time discussing the anatomy of courage, which detracts from the book’s strengths—Dyess and historical research.

As an Augustan, I reveled in the book’s description of “early Augusta”—the city, its citizens, and the attractions that made it the “before Florida” winter playground for wealthy northerners. Here, readers glimpse a young Jimmie Dyess who willingly risked his life to save two drowning strangers and who later would give his life to save marines on the twin islands of Roi Namur. The firsthand accounts by men who served, trained, and fought alongside Dyess capture the man who embodied the character and presence attributes of the Army Leadership Requirements Model.

Smith’s book is not only a responsible and personal portrait of Dyess, but also a revealing historical account of the Marine Corps. This account examines the strategic contributions made by five men who influenced Marine

Corps doctrine, force structure, and training evolutions in the 1930s, and the technological and tactical innovations employed by the Corps (specifically, the 4th Marine Division) in the Pacific during World War II. Examples include massive, sustained air and naval bombardment to weaken dug-in enemy emplacements, fighter planes with air-to-ground rockets against dug-in positions, and underwater demolition teams to reconnoiter defenses and destroy underwater barriers. Readers discover that “in 63 days of combat, the 4th Marine Division (including its subordinate 1/24th Marine Battalion commanded by LTC Jimmie Dyess) saw more close-combat action than any of the six Marine Divisions fighting in the Pacific Theater in WWII, proving the viability of amphibious attack against defended beaches.”

Only one American citizen has earned Eagle Scout status, received the Carnegie Medal for civilian heroism, and been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor—Aquila James “Jimmie” Dyess. A U.S. Navy destroyer and a Georgia highway bear his name, and an award symposium held annually in his honor salutes Americans who, over a lifetime, have made significant contributions to nation, community, and fellow citizens. *Courage, Compassion, Marine: The Unique Story of Jimmie Dyess* belongs on bookshelves alongside more recognizable biographies. I highly recommend this story of a unique and original American with remarkable achievements.

James D. Sharpe Jr., Fort Gordon, Georgia

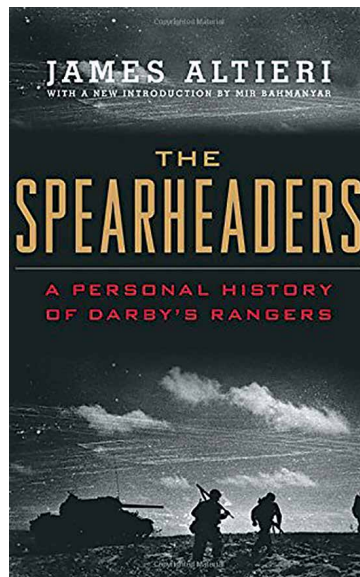
THE SPEARHEADERS

A Personal History of Darby's Rangers

James J. Altieri, Naval Institute Press,
Annapolis, Maryland, 2014, 318 pages

The *Spearheaders: A Personal History of Darby's Rangers* by James J. Altieri depicts the exceptional soldiers, tough training, and the attrition of sustained combat operations by Maj. William O. Darby's Rangers, America's first commando unit of World War II. The book is an account from Altieri's personal memoirs and written from an enlisted man's perspective. Altieri would rise through the ranks as an original member with the 1st Ranger Battalion and would eventually become a first sergeant and company commander of Fox Company, 4th Ranger Battalion.

Altieri enlisted on 8 October 1941 and joined the 68th Field Artillery of the First Armored Division. While serving with the First Armored Division in Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland, he volunteered for the 1st Ranger Battalion, which had been activated on 19 June 1942. Altieri was among many soldiers selected from several U.S. units in England who were willing to take the challenge posed by this new unit. He details the rigorous



selection process and the realistic commando training received from their British Commando counterparts. The Rangers' realistic combat training in Ireland and Scotland in 1942 resulted in success and the development of new tactics. Altieri sheds detailed light on the Rangers' training in amphibious operations, weapons

familiarization, and grueling foot marches—all of which honed them into a fighting force that would achieve success on the battlefields in Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, and Italy.

Throughout the book looms the personality of William Orlando Darby. An artilleryman, Darby was the first commander of the 1st Ranger Battalion and put his stamp on the unit through his personal involvement in all facets of their training. Always at the front of the most grueling movements, Darby pioneered night raid tactics that brought the Rangers their early and dramatic successes. Darby was ferociously loyal to his Rangers. Altieri relates with pride that Darby twice turned down promotions to remain as the 1st Rangers commander.

The Spearheaders highlights Darby's gift and what distinguished him from other combat leaders of this era—his ability to recruit, organize, and train future Ranger battalions. After the North African Campaign, Darby and his officers and noncommissioned officers chose to seek out prospective Rangers rather than rely on other units to provide volunteers. He and his battalion leadership avoided existing combat units, most of which were either at the front or likely to see combat

soon, and instead focused on the replacement depots and rear echelon formations in Algeria and Morocco. By April 1943, planners within the War Department gave approval to expand Darby's new Ranger Force to three battalions (1st, 3rd, and 4th battalions) for the campaigns in Sicily and Italy.

By the end of January 1944, Darby's Ranger Force ceased to exist as a fighting force, after the disaster at the battle of Cisterna. Darby's night infiltration attack neutralized a German staging area for an all-out drive to smash American forces in the Cisterna sector but found the 1st and 3rd battalions surrounded and cut off by tanks and numerically superior forces. Darby, with the 4th Battalion as the Reserve, tried desperately to reach the trapped Rangers. Darby's key failure at Cisterna was the lack of good intelligence. The Rangers unknowingly entered an area that had become heavily reinforced by veteran German units from the eastern front. Lightly equipped Rangers without proper support were no match for battle-hardened mechanized German units.

While elementary in style, Altieri presents personal experiences and insight as an original member of Darby's Rangers. *The Spearheaders* is a necessary read for any student of Ranger operations in World War II, as you can study the early formation, training, and employment of this elite force.

Adam J. Carson, Fort Gordon, Georgia

THE REVOLUTION'S LAST MEN The Soldiers Behind the Photographs

Don N. Hagist, Westholme Publishing,
Yardly, Pennsylvania, 2015, 256 pages

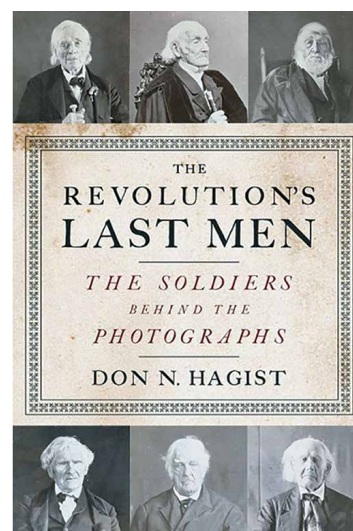
Wrinkles on their faces run like ancient rivers across rugged terrain. Eyes of aged men born in the eighteenth century glare at you from 1864 daguerreotype photographs, conveying a seriousness about their past, present, and future. *The Revolution's Last Men: The Soldiers Behind the Photographs*, by Don Hagist, impels the reader to look at the pictures before reading the biographies of these centenarians who were alive during the American Civil War. After soaking in the historic photographs, the reader must understand that this is a book about a book. Specifically, Hagist's book is a genealogical investigation of the facts, or lack

thereof, of the Rev. Elias Brewster Hillard's original work, *Last Men of the Revolution*.

In early 1864, the outcome of the American Civil War remained undecided. The earth continued to consume the dead on battlefields, as described in detail by pro-Union newspapers and echoed by the cries of grieving parents and widows. An infant nation was crawling into a fourth year of the cauldron of war, resulting in a wave of apathy among many northerners. Hillard, a prominent minister from Connecticut, saw an opportunity to rally war-weary Unionists when Nelson and Roswell Moore published photographs of the living veterans of the American Revolution. In an attempt to rally the Union, Hillard embarked on a quest to interview these aged veterans and publish their stories along with the Moores's photographs. *Last Men of the Revolution* was completed

and published in the same year, receiving accolades and recognition for his patriotic endeavor.

However, Hillard did not have access to pension records, nor did he attempt to validate the veterans' stories. He excluded revolutionary veterans living in southern states as that would be contrary to his motivation to rally



northerners. There was also the fact that these veterans were late in years, some literally on their deathbeds when interviewed. In *The Revolution's Last Men*, Hagist conducts an exhaustive examination of the original interviews and subjects them to contemporary genealogical investigative techniques in order to correct, update, or corroborate the veterans' stories. As a result, Hagist brings a historical moment alive by artfully depicting the timeframes, events, and hardships these veterans faced during the American Revolution.

The book contains a foreword by renowned genealogist Maureen Taylor, who explains the efficacy of Hagist's book in correcting and updating portions of Hillard's interviews. Introductions by Hagist and a reprint of Hillard's original preface provide readers a

roadmap to the importance and relevance of the surviving veterans' biographies. The chapters are dedicated to each of the six surviving veterans and arranged in the following order: Hagist's research and findings, photograph of the veteran, a thought-provoking sketch by Eric H. Schnitzer rendering what the veteran might have looked like as a young soldier, a drawing of the veteran's house at the time of interview, and Hillard's original interview transcript.

Hagist does an excellent job using pension and census records, as well as witness testimonies not available to Hillard, to align the veterans' testimonies with events, actions, locations, and battles they might have experienced. The photographs by themselves are worth the proverbial *thousand words*. His research adequately eliminates elements of exaggeration or failing memories that likely occurred during Hillard's interviews. The reader might find a degree of dynamic equivalency on Hagist's part (i.e., applying the author's sense of what the veteran might have sensed in the American Revolution versus trusting the words or phrases expressed by the veteran) when explaining how revolutionary era soldiers behaved in certain situations. However, Hagist's research does not distract from Hillard's interviews. On the contrary, his research and findings enhance our knowledge of the service these veterans provided during our nation's birth. This book is recommended for anyone that enjoys combining history with genealogical research to validate or enhance research conducted in previous eras.

Brook Allen, Fort Gordon, Georgia

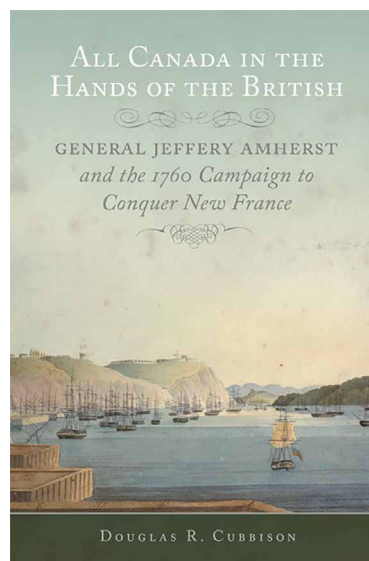
**ALL CANADA IN THE HANDS
OF THE BRITISH**
**General Jeffrey Amherst and the
1760 Campaign to Conquer New France**

Douglas R. Cubbison,
University of Oklahoma Press,
Norman, Oklahoma, 2014, 283 pages

Douglas Cubbison's exploration of Gen. Jeffrey Amherst recognizes an important fact—that most successful British Army officers seamlessly transitioned from leadership on conventional battlefields to leadership of population-centric style

counterinsurgencies. Too often those two activities are posed as antithetical, but *All Canada in the Hands of the British* illustrates campaigns marked by successful command and control and a population-centered strategy. He argues that Amherst's use of three columns placed his force in the best position to defeat the French Army and to control the population.

Much of Cubbison's text focuses on the campaign of Amherst subordinate James Murray. Murray excel-



lently secured the French population: "Murray's progress was slow and deliberate, as he landed strong detachments ashore at every parish (or township), swore the inhabitants to neutrality, and disarmed the Canadian militia, on which the French depended for resistance." Long before great military thinkers and

strategists codified military treatises, Cubbison reveals officers who excelled at nested modes of warfare—traditional combat and nonviolent activities.

What is most impressive, however, is Cubbison's integration of illness and disease into the exploration of a well-led military campaign. While it is not a major theme in the book, Cubbison's attention to illness and fatigue is impressive. Scholars like Jared Diamond and Alfred Crosby have made military commanders look like nonfactors, who luckily gained victory solely because of disease, while Cubbison joins authors such as Elizabeth Fenn and John McNeil, who place a higher emphasis on how commanders managed disease. The merger of meticulous campaign analyses written with a mind for operational language, extensive primary source research, and a substantive argument that should influence Seven Years War historiography places Cubbison in a class by himself and makes his book a must read for military professionals. It portrays eighteenth century leaders whose capability as leaders should still impress today's Army.

Joseph Miller, Orono, Maine

CONQUERORS

How Portugal Forged the First Global Empire

Roger Crowley, Random House, New York,
2015, 400 pages

Crowley has written several books about the wars between Christendom and Islam in the Mediterranean. Here he tells how the Portuguese created their maritime trading empire in the sixteenth century.

Portuguese mariners began exploring the Atlantic and coastal Africa in the 1420s for political, commercial, and religious reasons. Prince Henry, their principal sponsor, harnessed new sailing and shipbuilding techniques to extend Portuguese influence southward. The goal was to chart the African coast and the islands in the Atlantic systematically to search for an ocean route to Asia and break the Muslim-Venetian monopoly of the trade with India, thereby enriching Portugal and destroying Muslim power.

The Portuguese trading empire resembled those formed by the Scythians and Mongols, but their contemporary analogues were the Venetians and the Chinese. By 1510 they were in Goa (India), in 1535 they reached Macau (China), and by 1543, Japan. Their empire encompassed stations in Africa, the Persian Gulf (Aden and Hormuz), Malacca, China, and Japan. They forcibly established trading rights, built trading posts, and depended on local expertise throughout their expansion, using ships and cannon to open trade when negotiations failed. The discovery of open ocean routes to Asia opened the way to the contemporary world beginning with the Portuguese, who were followed by the Spanish, Dutch, English, and French.

Crowley's account shows how commercial goals were accompanied by a crusading impulse. A mixture of religious zeal and commercial opportunism made the Portuguese governor, Alonso de Albuquerque, the protagonist in Crowley's story, realize Portugal could control the silk and spice trade by occupying a few strategic points: Aden, Hormuz, Goa, and Malacca. Goa became the linchpin of the Portuguese trading empire.

The Portuguese followed the Chinese when the Ming engaged in maritime colonialism, controlling the main ports on the major East-West ocean trade

networks through force or threats. The Portuguese would also control the port cities and dominate the commerce along the trade routes between them.

Neither the Ming, the Portuguese, nor their seventeenth- and eighteenth-century successors sought territorial dominion; they wanted political and economic command of commercial lifelines, nodal points, and networks. By holding ports and trade routes, they controlled trade, which was essential for stability and prosperity.

Crowley judiciously uses the voluminous official correspondence of the leaders and the diaries kept by their subordinates to give this account of five hundred-year-old events dramatic immediacy. The Portuguese accomplishment included changing the genetic makeup of the South Indian population as well as European culinary and cultural habits.

Crowley tries to present a nuanced and fair interpretation of these events; he admires Portuguese bravery and curiosity but emphasizes their cruelty and greed while de-emphasizing the duplicitous tactics of the Indian rulers and Muslim merchants. In this, he mirrors our contemporary belief that the use of force in international relations began with fifteenth-century European colonialism. This premise is false, as violence occurred in world history from its beginnings—everywhere. In fact, the actions of the Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, French, and English in Asia were relatively benign compared to the punishment they inflicted on each other in Europe. Discovering an ocean route to India made Portugal the center of a global empire instead of a backward fringe of Europe. In the end, Portugal did not retain its dominant position due to internal and external factors, but that is another story.

This good book has great implications for our contemporary globalized world. Crowley's skill as a writer makes this an enjoyable book to read, too.

Lewis Bernstein, PhD, Woodbridge, Virginia

